COLORADO SPRINGS

GAZETTE TELEGRAPH

TUESDAY MARCH 16, 1993 ★35¢ DAILY/$1 SUNDAY

UPDATE

Walta withdraws compromise

Amendment 2's fate to be left to courts

By **Jeff Thomas**
Gazette Telegraph

Greg Walta has dropped his challenge to Amendment 2, leaving the courts to decide whether it stands or falls.

The surprise announcement Monday also leaves Colorado Springs companies that had lined up behind Walta without a plan to dismantle Amendment 2, which they say has been bad for business.

Walta, the unassuming Colorado Springs trial lawyer who jumped into the middle of a nasty spat, said he couldn't count on support from Denver, Boulder and Aspen, the cities most directly affected by Amendment 2 and by its possible reversal by a judge.

And he blamed foot-dragging by an anti-Amendment 2 group in Denver whose support Walta said was crucial to the statewide success of his proposed amendment to the Colorado Constitution.

"Ten days ago, I thought we were going to have Denver, Boulder and the mountain towns here today," Walta said Monday, the day he had planned to submit his plan to the secretary of state. "But the closer they got to that decision, the less and less certain they felt." That became evident last week, he said, when his Colorado Springs supporters decided last week to discontinue their effort.

Amendment 2, approved by voters in November, bans laws that protect gays and lesbians from discrimination based on their sexual orientation. Walta's measure would have repealed Amendment 2 and outlawed discrimination of gays and lesbians in the workplace, housing and overnight lodging. But it also would have denied them blanket remedies sometimes given racial minorities, such as hiring quotas.

Walta sought and got the public endorsement of some Colorado Springs employers to demonstrate broad, centrist support for a compromise in the county that gave Amendment 2 its biggest margin of victory in the election.

But while the unusual public display of corporate support grabbed attention for its symbolism, it wasn't persuasive where it mattered, Walta said. Potential supporters in Denver, Boulder and Aspen are betting that Denver District Judge Jeffrey Bayless will declare Amendment 2 unconstitutional next fall, Walta said, making his proposal unnecessary.

Those cities already have adopted ordinances that give gays and lesbians as much or more protection from discrimination than Walta's proposal. And Walta said they prefer to keep their ordinances rather than fight a bitter statewide battle for a weaker constitutional amendment they would be bound to stick with should

See **COMPROMISE**/A8

INSIDE

THE VIEW FROM DENVER
Directors of a Denver coalition found problems with Greg Walta's Amendment 2 compromise — and said he had given them an impossible deadline by which to decide on the plan./**A8**

■ Challenges to Amendment 2 remain/**A8**

REACTION

"I thought it was a reasonable proposal. I don't know who can build the compromise now."

— **Bruce Buell,**
a partner in the law firm of Holland & Hart

"No one in Ground Zero questioned the good intentions of Mr. Walta . . . but there were problems. . . . Some people had real problems with one of the exemptions. In the end, it wouldn't have been Greg Walta who lost; the headlines would have read 'Gays lose again.' "

— **Franklin Whitworth,**
spokesman for Ground Zero, a Springs-based gay and lesbian rights group

"The key areas of Denver, Boulder and the mountain towns want to turn their energies to positive agendas for their cities, not a statewide effort."

— **Greg Walta,**
Colorado Springs lawyer

DIGEST

NATION

▶ **ASPIN INVITES MORE BASE CLOSINGS:** Defense Secretary Les Aspin on Monday invited the base-closing commission to add to his list of military bases recommended for closure last week./**A4**

▶ **SIXTH BODY FOUND IN TRADE CENTER:** Authorities on Monday recovered the body of the sixth victim of the World Trade Center bombing more than two weeks ago./**A4**

WORLD

▶ **ISRAEL SIGNALS CONCILIATORY MOOD:** Israel's Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin met with President Clinton on Monday in Washington and later indicated he was willing to give up part of the Golan Heights to Syria./**A6**

CITY/REGION

▶ **D-11 SURVEY SETS PRIORITIES:** Salaries and class size topped the list of key concerns reflected in a survey on Colorado Springs School District 11./**B1**

▶ **REPLACEMENT FOR PARKS CHIEF NAMED:** El Paso County Public Works Director Max Rothschild was named Monday to temporarily oversee the county's Parks Department. His predecessor was fired last week./**B2**

STATE

▶ **HOUSE GIVES EARLY OK TO UNION BILL:** The state House gave preliminary approval Monday in Denver to a bill that would bar employers from forcing their workers to join labor unions./**B3**

OPINION

▶ **GOP CONTENDER:** Once-and-again presidential hopeful Jack Kemp, long an icon of conservatism, has been tilting a bit leftward lately — causing consternation in Republican ranks, write columnists Rowland Evans and Robert Novak./**B5**

SPORTS

▶ **SLIMMING DOWN:** The Colorado Rockies make their first big cut today. The Rockies began

Associated Press

Abortion clinic reopens

An abortion clinic in Pensacola, Fla., reopened Monday for the first time since Dr. David Gunn was fatally shot there Wednesday during an anti-abortion protest. Administrator Brianne Dorsey, left, and her assistant, Patty Dombrowski, speak to the media. NATION/**A5**

LIFESTYLE

▶ **IRISH MUSIC CROSSES THE ATLANTIC:** Ireland's Chieftains have taken the United States by storm with their lilting, lovely traditional Irish folk music and help from popular guest musicians like Jackson Browne and Nanci Griffith./**D1**

BUSINESS

▶ **MACINTOSH CLONE:** A 4-year-old computer company is offering the first clone of an Apple Mac-

PEOPLE, ETC.

Joel off the hook

A judge dismissed charges against **Billy Joel** and 19 officials and fishermen from East Hampton, N.Y., who used an outlawed method to catch striped bass to challenge state fishing regulations. The judge ruled Monday that the 20 summonses were invalid because they cited the wrong section of the law. The singer, who owns a house in nearby Amagansett, gave his support July 28 to commercial fishermen who say their way of life is threatened by state regulations limiting the size and method of the catch.

No funny business

Charlie Murphy is a dead ringer for little brother **Eddie**, but in "'CB4" he's happy to play a very different type of character than his famous sibling usually does. "I'm not afraid of comedy, but that's the last thing on my list because that's going to be the direct comparison," said Charlie Murphy, who plays a gangster, Gusto, one of the few serious characters in the rap comedy. Charlie Murphy has written material for his brother in the past and had small roles in "Harlem Nights," "Mo' Better Blues" and "Jungle Fever."

All sorts of fans

Cindy Crawford says about half her fans are women. "For some reason I haven't figured out, they see me as someone who's in charge of my career. And I'm really not," the 27-year-old supermodel says in the April edition of US magazine. "The truth is, the last six years have been pretty haphazard. . . . I'm just now starting to be able to articulate and plan things." She said the rest of her mail is a mixed bag, and occasionally weird. "I got an interesting one the other day from this guy in Leavenworth, the prison," she said. "He had some beauty tips for me."

Puppy love

Jean Harris, who was recently released on clemency after serving 12 years in prison for the murder of Scarsdale Diet Dr. Herman Tarnower, embraces a golden retriever that was given to her by Joan Rivers during taping Monday of Rivers' talk show in New York. Harris owned several dogs, all of which died while she was in prison.

Lending a hand

Geraldo Rivera will tape two editions of his television talk show in Red Bank, N.J., to raise money for a financially strapped theater there. Rivera, who lives in nearby Navesink, will charge $8 admission to the shows, to be taped today at the Count Basie Theater. Fiscal troubles at the theater were reported last year in the weekly Two River Times. Rivera is managing editor and principal owner of the newspaper. A producer for the program said that **Suzanne**

▼▼▼

WOULD YOU BELIEVE . . .

A new meaning to hog calling

Iowa hog farmer Dave Rousselow found this message on his answering machine the other day: grunt.

And some squeals and snorts.

One of Rousselow's hogs had come across his cellular phone and, somehow, punched the redial button. Shortly before he lost the phone, Rousselow had dialed his home to check for messages.

After getting the message, he went out to the hog lot and found the phone in the muck under a fence.

Cellular phones on the farm are more common now that towers spreading their signals cover more territory. But the hog's call was a fluke.

"I went in for lunch, and I saw the red light flashing on the answering machine," Rousselow said.

"I could hear scraping noises. They must have been pushing it across the floor," he said. There were grunts and snorts and squeals, too. "Maybe they were thanking me for not taking them to market."

Keno

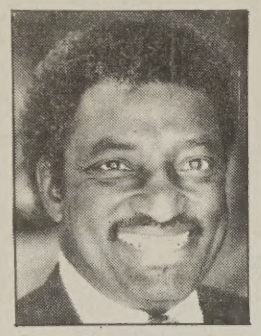
MONDAY NIGHT'S NUMBERS:

BATTLE OVER GAY RIGHTS

CHALLENGES REMAIN

Four potential threats to Amendment 2 remain now that Greg Walta and Come Together Colorado have stepped aside:

■ Sen. Regis Groff, D-Denver, introduced a resolution in January that, if approved by two-thirds of all lawmakers, would place an outright repeal of Amendment 2 on the November ballot. But the measure has yet to get a hearing.



Groff: Seeks outright repeal of Amendment 2.

■ Rep. Sam Williams, D-Breckenridge, introduced a resolution that would ask voters to broaden a 1990 law that forbids employers from firing workers for legal activity conducted off the job. But Williams has yet to introduce his measure, and staff members said Monday they had "no idea" when or if he might file it.

■ Rep. Ken Chlouber, R-Leadville, has agreed to introduce a proposed amendment that would inject a fundamental right of privacy into the Colorado Constitution to keep employers' and landlords' noses out of personal behavior, including sexual behavior.

If lawmakers refuse to refer the Chlouber plan to voters, a spokesman for Coloradans for Privacy, which drafted the measure, said the group will seek the required 50,000 petition signatures by Aug. 2 to qualify for the ballot.

■ State lawyers, meanwhile, are scheduled March 23 to review an amendment proposed by a part-time Denver bookstore employee that would specifically outlaw discrimination based on a broad range of characteristics, including sexual orientation. Daniel Brewer-Ward said Monday he will try to petition onto the ballot.

— Gazette Telegraph

REACTION

"Personally, I thought (the compromise) was gaining momentum in Colorado Springs. At best, Mr. Walta helped people realize that a lot of people in the middle — business leaders — saw a need to put this behind us. We shouldn't forget that."

— Robert Howsam Jr.,
associate executive director of the Colorado Springs Fine Art Center

"It's a loss for the state and also a loss for the city. It would have helped Colorado Springs take control of its image again. But now, I think there still is a bad perception about it (the city)."

— Gil Johnson,
of G.E. Johnson Construction Co. Inc.

Denver group saw problems with plan

Timing, exemptions for nonprofit agencies among concerns voiced

Gazette Telegraph

In the beginning, Greg Walta said any proposal to reverse Amendment 2 must come from Colorado Springs.

In the end, he said veto power rested in Denver, specifically with the Colorado Alliance to Restore Equality, or CARE. And when CARE hemmed and hawed, Walta said Monday, he pulled the plug.

For weeks, directors of CARE — a group of 60 or so Denver business, religious, civic, gay and lesbian activists — had been studying Walta's proposal to replace Amendment 2 in the Colorado Constitution. They were still studying on Monday, the day Walta wanted their endorsement, the day he planned to submit his measure to the secretary of state.

CARE directors said Walta gave them an impossible deadline, especially since they got their first detailed look at the proposal just over a month ago. But they also had problems with parts of the plan itself.

Mary Celeste, a lawyer and advocate of gay and lesbian issues, said she was uncertain, despite assurances from Walta, whether exemptions for certain nonprofit groups and churches amounted to a giant loophole.

Barbara Grogan, a construction executive, said she was uneasy with the plan's banishment of "special rights," such as hiring quotas for gays and lesbians.

"There were some real concerns whether it was a step forward," she said. "How do you compromise on a person's rights?"

Chet Whye, a black engineer, said he feared others might take the ban on affirmative action programs for homosexuals and try to extend it to racial minorities, who by law are entitled to hiring preferences in some cases.

He and other members of CARE's steering committee also were troubled by Walta's timing, now that Amendment 2 is being challenged in the courts.

"Suppose we did go forward this year with Greg's proposal," said steering committee Chairman John Huggins. "We get to two weeks before the election and the judge rules Amendment 2 unconstitutional. That might take some steam out of the campaign."

Walta had considered CARE a litmus test of statewide support. The group has a membership profile similar to Come Together Colorado, the Springs-based group that sprung up around Walta's proposal. More practically, Denver holds the state's biggest concentration of votes.

"In order to win a statewide election, you have to have Denver in your camp," Walta said. "Anybody who proceeds against that fairly compelling fact is going to go down pretty big."

CARE directors said that given enough time to digest and tinker with the proposal, they eventually would have given Walta the endorsement he wanted.

But "it might very well have been less than ringing," said Denver City Councilwoman Kathy Reynolds.

CARE directors denied their actions amounted to an example of Denver usurping power from a smaller city.

"Greg chose to give us the power," said Linda Fowler, a construction administrator. "We never said no. We just weren't ready to say yes yet."

Florida group starts drive to prohibit gay rights laws

Associated Press

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. — Existing gay rights laws could be repealed and new ordinances aimed at homosexuals could be passed under a Florida constitutional amendment proposed Monday.

"Homosexuality is not a civil right," said David Caton, director of the American Family Political Committee of Florida, which filed the proposal with the state Division of Elections.

If written into the Florida Constitution, state law would limit discrimination protection to race, color, religion, gender, national origin, age, handicap or marital status.

The measure resembles Colorado's Amendment 2.

Caton's group would have to obtain 429,000 signatures by Aug. 9, 1994, to put the proposal on a statewide ballot in November 1994.

The proposal comes an the heels of separate decisions by two circuit court judges, striking down Florida's existing law banning homosexuals from adopting children.

Florida doesn't have a state gay rights law.

State tourism promoters say they would rather let individual communities decide on such ordinances than change the state constitution, citing a loss of convention business in Colorado after such a law was passed.

"Whenever there's controversy, associations and meeting planners try to steer clear of it," said Barry Kenney, director of the state Division of Tourism.

The amendment is opposed by groups such as Floridians Respect Everyone's Equality, which supports equal rights for homosexuals.

"We don't want Colorado's hate exported to Florida," said chairman Jeff Peters.

Compromise/Cities' support lacking

From A1

Bayless strike down Amendment 2.

Devotion to Denver's own civil rights law, which includes gays and lesbians, was a "sensitive" issue within the Colorado Alliance to Restore Equality, said Chet Whye, one of the seven directors of the broad-based anti-Amendment 2 group of Denver business and civic leaders, also known as CARE.

"It raised the issue that we could have ourselves entrenched in an election after a court ruling," Whye said.

But other CARE directors said they aren't as devoted to their gay rights protections as Walta makes them out to be.

"We don't want to be Denver-centric," said Mary Celeste, a Denver lawyer and advocate of gay and lesbian rights. "Our concern is for the gay and lesbian community statewide. If the language (in Walta's proposal) could have been tailored in a different way to be more in line with the ordinances that already exist, it certainly would have helped."

But support for Walta's proposed amendment did run thin among gay and lesbian leaders. And elected officials in Boulder have declared their intent to enforce their own ordinance, while Aspen Mayor John Bennett said he's happy with his town's own law protecting gays.

Reaction to the decision to back off was met with disappointment among some of Walta's supporters in the business community.

"It's a loss for the state, and also a loss for the city," said Gil Johnson of G.E. Johnson Construction Co. "It would have helped Colorado Springs take control of its image again. But now, I think there still is a bad perception about (the city)."

Some of the most notable Colorado Springs supporters — including Digital Equipment Corp. and Bill Hybl, chairman of the wealthy El Pomar Foundation — could not be reached for comment.

Colorado for Family Values, the Colorado Springs group that brought Amendment 2 to the ballot last year, had blasted the proposed replacement as a "watered-down gay rights bill," and Monday claimed vindication.

"The majority of people recognized that it was not a compromise," said CFV Chairman Will Perkins. The group, he said, will continue to hold seminars around the state on the "homosexual agenda."

Walta said abandoning the proposed amendment leaves Colorado Springs to resolve its squabbling over Amendment 2 itself, but he refused to acknowledge that Colorado for Family Values had won the argument.

"If we allow Colorado for Family Values to define our city, we run the danger of becoming isolated politically, economically and religiously from the rest of the nation," he said.

Walta said he would return to the fray, but only if Amendment 2 is upheld. He'll continue, however, to keep an eye on Colorado for Family Values.

"As long as Colorado for Family Values tries to make their agenda our agenda, they've got an enemy," Walta said. "I'm not going away."

Staff writers Louis Aguilar and Ray Flack contributed to this report.

WORLD

Muslim enclave falls to Serbian forces

Refugees kept on the run in Bosnia

Associated Press

SARAJEVO, Bosnia-Herzegovina — Serbian forces backed by armor plunged eastern Bosnia's Muslims deeper into desperation Monday by seizing the enclave of Konjevic Polje and chasing its refugees southward.

The U.N. commander in Bosnia, French Gen. Philippe Morillon, said he obtained a conditional agreement from the Serbs to cease fire in the region of Srebrenica, the embattled enclave toward which the Konjevic Polje refugees fled.

The Bosnian Serb military said in a statement a corridor would be opened to allow aid into Srebrenica and evacuation of wounded — two of Morillon's chief demands.

It was not immediately clear whether that was conditional on the Serbs' earlier demand that Morillon leave Srebrenica, where he based himself in a gesture of solidarity with the suffering city.

Morillon confirmed in an interview over ham radio that Konjevic Polje had fallen.

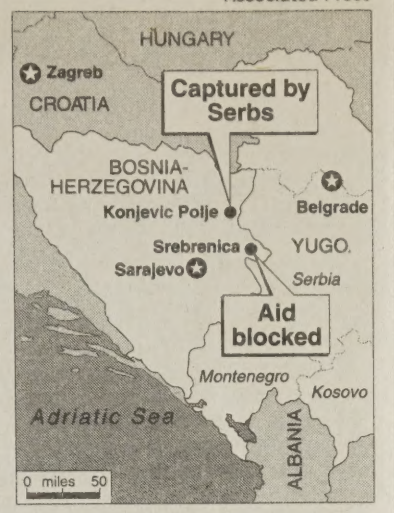
Murat Efendic, an eastern Bosnian official in Sarajevo, told The Associated Press earlier he heard over ham radio that 11 tanks and 10 armored vehicles were rumbling after retreating Muslim defenders, who were fighting a desperate rear-guard action to protect civilians fleeing Konjevic Polje.

Morillon told the French TV network TF-1 that he had obtained agreement from Bosnian Serb commanders to stop firing around Srebrenica if the Bosnian forces halted their counter-offensive.

Bosnian radio later reported that the commander of government forces, Sefer Halilovic, ordered his troops to suspend offensive actions in eastern Bosnia.

Morillon had told the AP the Serbs insisted that Bosnian President Alija Izetbegovic order the suspension. It was unclear whether that condition was met.

Associated Press



The fall of Konjevic Polje will likely worsen conditions in Srebrenica, about 15 miles southwest. Srebrenica's population has already been swollen to more than 60,000 by refugees fleeing a 2-week-old Serbian offensive in the region.

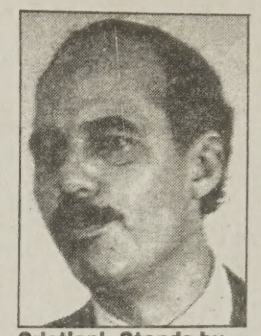
Bosnian radio reported that 12,000 new refugees arrived in Srebrenica on Monday and that the town was being shelled.

After routing Muslims from a string of villages in the region that borders Serbia, Bosnian Serbs now have artillery trained on Srebrenica.

Salvadoran leader resists pressure for reform urged in U.N. report

Chicago Tribune

SAN SALVADOR, El Salvador — President Alfredo Cristiani shrugged off a devastating U.N. report Monday that painted a chilling picture of El Salvador's government and military directing the repression and assassinations of strident government critics and civilians.



Cristiani: Stands by defense minister targeted in report.

"We received the Truth Commission report this morning and are not in position to comment on it," Cristiani said of the report, details of which have been known by the government for weeks.

He said he also had rejected the resignation of Defense Minister Gen. Rene Emilio Ponce, a key figure in the U.N. commission's accusations. On Friday, Ponce offered to step down in response to U.S. pressure.

"We don't take decisions to comply with the purge of the army because of pressure from anyone," Cristiani said.

The report by the U.N. Truth Commission said death squads "often operated by the military and supported by powerful businessmen, land owners and some leading politicians" have long acted in El Salvador and remain a potential menace."

"The commission is especially concerned by the close relationship between the military, hired assassins and extremists within the Salvadoran business community and some affluent families who have resorted to killing to settle disputes," the report said.

The Truth Commission and a second U.N. organization known as the Ad Hoc Commission were established under a U.N.-brokered peace accord between the government and a coalition of five rebel groups known as the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front.

The accord led to the formal end of a 12-year civil war that claimed more than 75,000 lives.

A rebel communique rejected Cristiani's call for a general amnesty for those accused of assassinations and serious human rights abuses. The group said death squad killings must be investigated more fully. The army had no response to the report.

Around the house
Don't miss the GT's helpful **Home** section

BRIEFING

South Korea said to want U.S. troops to stay: South Korea will ask Washington to leave U.S. troops brought over for war games, citing rising tensions over North Korea's withdrawal from international nuclear controls, a newspaper said today in Seoul.

The withdrawal, which frees North Korea from an obligation to allow inspections of nuclear sites, reinforced suspicions that it is developing nuclear weapons.

North Korea has called the joint U.S.-South Korean military exercises a preparation for a nuclear attack. Its ambassador to U.N. offices in Geneva warned Monday that war between North Korea and the United States "could break out at any moment."

Quoting a Defense Ministry official, the newspaper Chosun Ilbo said South Korea would ask the Clinton administration to not withdraw

Police official gets death sentence in sex scandal

Associated Press

CASABLANCA, Morocco — Casablanca's police commissioner was sentenced to death Monday for forcing more than 500 women and girls into sexual acts that he videotaped.

The court, in the biggest-ever trial of its kind in this North African country, ruled that Commissioner Mohamed Mustafa Tabet held the key role in the scandal. Tabet, who was tried with several other police officials, has the right to appeal.

Prosecutors said an investigation found that Tabet, 54, lured or forced more than 500 women and girls into an apartment he kept for sexual exploits. Investigators said they found 118 videocassettes made over several years with cameras hidden in the bedroom walls.

Eighteen women who testified

The ultimate cinematic and musical experience in your home: Definitive Technology

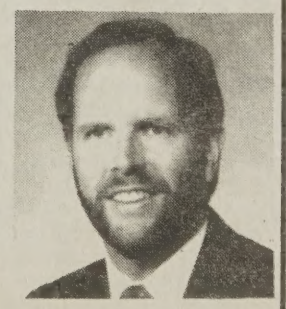
Randy Taylor of Definitive Technology will demonstrate the award winning Home Theatre Surround Speaker System in both audio and movie application. If you're looking for a great value, consider the benefits of a home theatre as well as a superior audio system.

The ListenUp Home Theatre Seminars
Date: March 16, Tuesday
Time: 6:00 pm
Location: 230 North Tejon
Colorado Springs Audio Store
RSVP: 633-2600

Refreshments will be served
Free Parking behind store

enUp®
video

NEARSIGHTED???
Tired of wearing glasses?
Are your contacts a hassle?



Britt A. Buckley M.D.

Seminar Dates:
TONIGHT
- March 16, 1993 5:15-6:15 P.M.
- March 31, 1993 5:15-6:15 P.M.

ATTEND
a Free Educational Seminar On:
Radial Keratotomy
AND
Excimer Laser
(Surgery to correct Nearsightedness and Astigmatism)

This free seminar will review the history of RK, identify the people with the highest chance of success, and discuss possible risks. Use of the Excimer Laser in refractive surgery will also be discussed.

Dr. Buckley is a Board Certified Fellow of the American Academy of Ophthalmology. He has performed RK for nearly ten years and has successfully completed over 2,500 procedures.

If your goal is to have good unaided vision call for reservations for this free seminar.

PEAK VISION SURGICAL CENTER
3155 North Union Blvd.

RESERVATIONS: 630-EYES
630-3937